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Application No: 10/753,321
Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3111REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23-25 and 27-37 are pending. Claims 23, 29 and 33 are independent. Claims 23 and 29 are amended. Claim 26 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein, that subject matter having been incorporated into claim 23 by this Amendment. New claims 33-37 are added. Independent claim 33 corresponds to previously pending claim 23 with the subject matter from claim 27 incorporated therein. Dependent claims 34-37 correspond to dependent claims 24-26 and 28.

In section 7 on page 5, the Office Action indicates that claims 26 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 23 is amended to incorporate the subject matter from claim 26, which previously depended directly from claim 23. Thus, claim 26 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

New claim 33 corresponds to claim 23 with the subject matter from claim 27 incorporated therein.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 23 and 33 should be allowed.

Claims 24, 25, 27, 28 and 34-37 are allowable based at least on their dependency from claims 23 and 33 for the reasons stated above.

Claim 29 is amended to incorporate the subject matter from allowable claim 26. Therefore it is also respectfully submitted that claim 29, and claims 30-32 depending therefrom, are allowable.

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In section 5 on pages 2-5, the Office Action rejects claims 23-25 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0174162 to Wu in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0139352 to Shewchuk et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 23-25 and 28-32 are patentable over Wu in view of Shewchuk et al. for the reasons stated above in connection with the indication that claims 26 and 27 are allowable. For at least this reason, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 23-25 and 28-32 as allegedly being unpatentable over Wu in view of Shewchuk et al. be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

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In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

Date: May 25, 2007


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